

App. No. 10/611,839  
TCA No. 3711 Docket No. 00-413  
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

# **REMARKS**

Claims 4, 7-9, 16-21, 31, 34-47, and new claims 48-70 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 31 and 34-47 are allowed, and for pointing out that claim 3-7, 11-13, 15, 17-19, and 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4, 7, and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, and 19-21 have been amended in their dependence.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-15, 22-30, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

New claims 48-70 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

## **Rejection Over U.S. Patent No. 5,820,488**

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,820,488 to Sullivan *et al.* ("Sullivan"). Claim 33 has been cancelled, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

## **Rejection Over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0148826**

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 14, 16, 20, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0148826 to Ohama *et al.* ("Ohama"). Claims 1, 2, 10, 14, and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 9, 16, 20, and 21 have been amended to depend now from claim 4 which, now in independent form as amended herein, is believed to be in conditions for allowance. As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' agent/attorney

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would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent/attorney at the number below.

At the time of filing, the above-identified Application included a total of 47 claims, 4 of which were independent claims. The present submission includes a total of 48 claims, 7 of which are independent claims. As such, a fee of \$650.00 is believed to be due for this submission. Please charge this and any other required fees to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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